

Care Services Division of the LSU Medical Center.

Throughout his years at the helm of the LSU System, Dr. Copping enjoyed a well-deserved reputation as a man of extraordinary loyalty, honesty, compassion and sincerity who is unalterably devoted to public education and the well being of his native state of Louisiana.

Mr. President, on behalf of the citizens of my state, I wish to congratulate Allen Copping on a well-deserved retirement and offer my profound gratitude for the leadership that he has provided the LSU System over the past fourteen years. He will be missed, but I know that I and other public officials will continue to benefit from his wisdom and his commitment to providing a quality education that meets the needs of our country's most precious commodity—our young people. I wish Allen and Betty and their family all the best in this next and very exciting phase of their lives.●

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to rise in observance of Greece's 178th anniversary of National Independence. Today, we are here to pay tribute to Greek and American democracy, and to our shared commitment to peace and stability in the Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean.

On March 25, 1821, the Greek people initiated their victorious pursuit of liberty from four centuries of oppressive Ottoman rule. After nearly ten years of struggle against overwhelming odds, the Greeks accomplished this historic request, reaffirming their commitment to the individual freedoms that are at the heart of the Greek tradition.

From the beginning of their revolution, the Greeks had the support, emotional and material, from a people who had recently gained freedom for themselves: the Americans. Looking back at their triumphant march toward liberty, the American people followed with affinity the Greek pursuit for national independence. Since then, our two nations have remained firmly united by a shared commitment to democratic principles. These ties were reinforced by thousands of Greeks who came to America for greater economic opportunity. These immigrants and their descendants continue to make their own important and unique contributions to America's economic and political strength.

As a nation whose founders were ardent students of the classics, America has drawn its political convictions from the ancient Greek ideals of liberty and citizenship. And just as America looked to the Greeks for inspiration, Greek patriots looked to the American Revolution for strength in the face of their own adversity. The

exuberance and passion of a young nation dedicated to freedom lifted the spirits of the Greek patriots, and reminded them of their long-standing democratic legacy.

As we enter the next century, it is appropriate that we retrace our common struggle to build societies based on individual rights, equality and the rule of law. During World War I, our nations forged a steadfast alliance to maintain peace in the Balkans. During the Second World War, Greeks heroically resisted the brutal Nazi regime, defeated Mussolini's troops, and contributed in no small part to the allied victory over the Axis Powers. At the Cold War's inception, President Truman and the American people committed to helping Greece rebuild their war-ravaged nation through the Marshall Plan. Greece continues to play an important role as a valued member of the international community within NATO and the European Union.

Today, as one of the few stable democracies in its region, Greece has played a stabilizing role throughout the Balkans and is helping its neighbors progress toward greater political and economic security. Greek economic modernization, along with its status as a member of the European Union, allow Greece to act as a model for and play a constructive role in the economic well being of its neighbors.

Mr. President, the new millennium promises an even stronger Greek-American relationship and further cooperation in the areas of our mutual interests. Through ties of blood and affection, as well as shared political goals and philosophical ideals, Greece has retained a special relationship with the United States. Therefore, on this important occasion, it is fitting that we remember this historical legacy and rededicate ourselves to the principles which inspired the free and democratic peoples of America and Greece.●

CENSUS

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I was troubled by a recent report in Roll Call which details a plan by House Republicans to devise a media campaign to support their efforts to shut down the government in order to restrict census sampling. I ask that this article be printed in the RECORD at the end of my statement.

Mr. President, the census is a critical issue for my State and for the nation. The census count determines how nearly 200 billion of federal funds are allocated. An inaccurate count means that these federal funds are misallocated.

According to a recent study by the nonpartisan General Accounting Office, the 1990 census undercounted the United States population by about 4 million people—or approximately 1.6 percent of the entire population.

Many states had undercounts above the national average. California's

undercount was 2.7 percent; New Mexico's was 3.1 percent; Texas' 2.8 percent; and Arizona's 2.4 percent, just to name a few.

According to the GAO, 22 of the 25 large formula grant programs use census data as part of their allocation formula. Those funds are used for our schools, health care facilities, and transit systems. California was the most harmed because of the 1990 census undercount, losing nearly 2.2 billion in federal funds, or 2,660 per person missed.

In 1998 alone, California lost 198 million in federal funds for Medicaid; 9.4 million for foster care; 3.2 million for Social Security; 1.9 million for child care and development; and 1.1 million for vocational training. Millions more in federal dollars for adoption assistance, prevention and treatment of substance abuse, highway planning and construction, and other programs did not flow to California because of the inaccurate census.

Other states also suffer: Texas lost almost 1 billion because of the 1990 undercount, and Arizona, Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana each lost over \$100 million.

Moreover, all areas and groups are not undercounted at the same rate, and some members of our society are more likely to be missed than others. According to the GAO, 5.7 percent of African-Americans were not counted in the 1990 Census. Nor were 5 percent of Latinos and 4.5 percent of Native Americans. Of the 835,000 people undercounted in California, most were minorities. Nearly half the net undercount—47 percent—were Hispanic. Twenty-two percent were African-American and 8 percent were Asian.

Such differences in census coverage introduce inequities in political representation and in the distribution of federal funds. Because Hispanics, African-Americans, and other minority groups had a larger undercount than whites in the 1990 Census—as in prior censuses—minorities and the communities in which they live have been disadvantaged in government programs in which population is an important factor in fund allocation.

This is an issue of basic fairness. Every American should be counted. And unless we can provide the Census Bureau with our support for an accurate census, and do so without any political intervention, then we run the risk of doing a grave injustice to our citizens.

Since the failed 1990 population count, the Census Bureau has worked with experts to design a more accurate census for 2000. The National Academy of Sciences, in three separate reports, concluded that the key to improving accuracy in the census is the use of sound statistical methods to count those missed during the conventional

"head count." This involves detailed "statistical sampling" to determine the characteristics of those who are missed by the head count.

But for partisan reasons, some in Congress evidently prefer to ignore the expert advice and plan to shut down part of the government rather than see an accurate count. They argue that sampling is unnecessary. Unfortunately, during the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal the undercount was 6.5 percent for Sacramento, California; 3.1 percent for the Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin; and 9.1 percent for the entire state of South Carolina.

The magnitude of such undercounts and the implications for the 2000 Census that fails to correct the problem are particularly great for states with large and diverse populations, such as Florida, Texas, Arizona, New York, California and many others.

The Supreme Court has affirmed that sampling is required for purposes other than apportionment if "feasible".

The census should not be about politics. And Mr. President, I will oppose any efforts to include any restrictions on the ability of the Bureau of the Census to conduct the most accurate census possible. Anything else would simply be unfair.

The article follows:

GOP GIRDS FOR CENSUS BATTLE FIRST TO HOLD JOB, HE'S LEAVING FOR PRIVATE SECTOR

(By Jim VandeHei and John Mercurio)

Fearing the loss of two dozen House seats if his party blinks, Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) has tapped former National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman Bill Paxon (N.Y.) to prepare GOP troops for a budget fight over the 2000 Census that could provoke a partial government shutdown.

At Hastert's request, Paxon huddled this week with NRCC Chairman Tom Davis (Va.), Republican media strategist Eddie Mahe and others to help devise a coordinated strategy to block President Clinton's plan to use sampling in the 2000 Census.

"I am one of a group of people trying to figure out how to keep Mr. Bill Clinton from imposing his political calculations on the census," Mahe said in an interview.

The impending battle will erupt in earnest next month when GOP leaders begin working on the funding bill for Commerce, Justice, State, the judiciary and related agencies. During last year's budget negotiations, Republicans and Clinton agreed to put off final decisions on whether to fund the use of sampling until this June, when the results of the Census Bureau's dress rehearsals would be available and the Supreme Court would have ruled on a much-anticipated legal challenge to sampling.

The budget fight follows the High Court's decision in late January that the bureau's plan to use sampling in the decennial for reapportionment of House seats violates the Census Act.

But according to pro-sampling Democrats' interpretation of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's majority opinion, the federal government can, "if feasible," use sampling for the very different purpose of redistricting, or the redrawing of House district boundary lines, within each state.

Following the court's ruling, Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt said the Clinton administration will seek an increased level of funding to conduct two counts—one using the GOP-backed practice of trying to count every American, the other using the Clinton-endorsed sampling.

Meanwhile, Democrats are trying to amend the Census Act to allow sampling for reapportionment, and Republicans will try to place language in the spending bill that would restrict funding for any sampling practices associated with the census.

The GOP plan, according to informed sources, likely will include a media campaign against Clinton's plan, which most House Democrats support.

It will also include a lobbying campaign to convince Republican Members to stand up to Clinton if he threatens to shut down the government to scare off opposition.

"Everybody knows this is 'do or die' for the party," said one GOP official familiar with the nascent strategy. "We're not going to back down on this."

That spending plan will include a provision preventing the bureau from using statistical sampling, which Hastert and Paxon fear will cost Republicans dozens of House seats in the new millennium.

"The Speaker and virtually every GOP leader believe no single vote will have greater ramifications on the future of the Republican majority than the vote to block President Clinton from changing the way we conduct the census," said one Hastert confidant.

But Democrats understand that if Clinton backs down, Republicans' chances of retaining their majority will increase.

He won't capitulate to GOP demands, according to senior Democratic leadership sources.

"They have never shown any weakness and I don't know why they would," said a top Democratic adviser, who insisted White House officials will shut down the government if Republicans refuse to back down.

Democrats said the Republican moves show they are preparing to allow this battle to result in a shutdown. A government shutdown in 1995 caused their party's support to plummet and ultimately led to a more conciliatory tone among House GOP leaders.

"They weren't able to convince the American people to believe they were justified in doing that in 1995, and I don't see how they would be able to do so in 1999," said Rep. HENRY WAXMAN (D-Calif.), the ranking member of the Government Reform Committee.

"If they do make it a partisan issue and close down three departments of government, they're going to need to spend a lot of money to try to convince people they're not being partisan again," Waxman said. "And I don't think they're going to succeed."

Rep. CAROLYN MALONEY (D-N.Y.), the ranking member of the Government Reform subcommittee on the census, said Democrats can turn back the Republican budget proposal by appealing to "at least 10 Republicans" to support sampling. So far, only three Republicans—Reps. CONNIE MORELLA (Md.), CHRISTOPHER SHAYS (Conn.) and NANCY JOHNSON (Conn.)—have sided with Democrats in the sampling battle.

"I truly believe there are at least 10 Republicans who truly care about their constituents and their country who would not go along with this."

But MALONEY said the GOP media plan "wouldn't surprise me. The Republican machine has been focussing like a laser beam on this subject in their attempts to make sure that blacks, Hispanics and Asians are not counted. It's wrong, and they should stop."

While talk of a government shutdown may be hyperbole by both sides, the political posturing underscores how contentious the upcoming budget debate will be.

Last Congress, Republican and Democratic leaders ended months of bickering over the census by delaying a final decision until after the election. They passed a six-month funding bill and agreed to tackle the tricky topic when the pressure of impending elections subsided and the Supreme Court had ruled on a legal challenge to the sampling plan.

The six-month funding bill expires in June, but HASTERT wants appropriators to start work soon, likely early next month, to provide leadership with as much as time as possible to avert a shutdown.

In the meantime, Paxon is working with several Members and strategists to develop a plan to win the public relations war over the census.

Besides Davis, Mahe and Paxon, House Administration Chairman BILL THOMAS (R-Calif.); Rep. DAN MILLER (R-Fla.), chairman of the Government Reform subcommittee on the census; and two GOP strategists, Bill Greener and Chuck Greener, are intimately involved in the strategizing, sources said.

Paxon's team is considering a paid media campaign to educate voters on the census issue in the weeks leading up to a final vote on legislation and a variety of communications ideas to prevent the PR debacle in the wake of the 1995 government shutdown, the sources said.

GOP leaders have not decided who will run the media campaign or who will pay for it.

In the meantime, HASTERT plans to hand more money to Miller and his census subcommittee to conduct an oversight investigation into how the administration is reacting to the Supreme Court decision on sampling.

He also plans to educate Members on the topic and lobby them to support the leadership's position.

Davis said GOP leaders don't anticipate more than one Republican defecting, though both SHAYS and MORELLA remain opposed to leadership's position, according to their spokesmen. "And we'll pick up some Democrats," he said, though he refused to list any possibilities.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration, en bloc, of the following bills reported by the Environment and Public Works Committee: Calendar No. 53, S. 67; Calendar No. 56, S. 437; Calendar No. 57, S. 453; Calendar No. 58, S. 460; Calendar No. 59, H.R. 92; Calendar No. 60, H.R. 158; Calendar No. 61, H.R. 233; and Calendar No. 62, H.R. 396.

I further ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to any of these bills be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD, with the above occurring en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.